

REMARKS

Introduction

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 26, 2009. Claims 1, 9 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. It should be noted that the Applicants are not conceding in this application that the amended claims in their prior form are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments have been made only to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the application. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a)

By the Office Action, claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,678,248 to Haddock et al. (hereinafter 'Haddock') in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0031142 (hereinafter 'Metin') and U.S. Patent No. 6,563,793 to Golden et al. (hereinafter 'Golden'). Further, claims 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Metin in view of Golden.

In support of the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner has relied on Golden as teaching output queues that are associated only with reserved connection data packets for one reserved connection path at a given time (see, e.g., Office Action of October 26, 2009, p. 6, para. 3 to p. 7,

para. 1; Advisory Action dated January 4, 2010 (citing Golden, column 11, lines 57-58 and 60-61)). While the Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the reasons in discussed previous Office Action responses, the claims have been amended to expedite prosecution of the application. As such, claim 1 now recites that output queues are associated only with reserved connection data packets and with requests for reserved connections (see, e.g., Specification, p. 4, lines 4-7; p. 4, lines 10-13)).

In contrast to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Golden does not disclose the use of output queues associated only with both reserved connection packets and reserved connection requests, and forwarding requests for reserved connections to such output queues. As noted by the Examiner, Golden states that reserved connection packets are forwarded to high priority queues (see Golden column 11, lines 57-65). Assuming, arguendo, that the Examiner's interpretation is correct and these high priority queues are used exclusively for reserved connection packets, Golden nowhere discloses that requests for reserved connections are forwarded to these high priority queues. Rather, Golden indicates that only packets belonging to reserved connections are given high priority:

The effect of the above-noted enhanced functionality is that switches 56 give higher priority to packets **belonging** to reserved virtual circuit connections than to other packets contending for access to the same ports as needed by the reserved virtual circuit connections, thereby guaranteeing the desired service for the reserved connections.

Golden, column 8, lines 57-63 (emphasis added). However, requests for reserved connections transmitted to an end station through switch 56 do not belong to a reserved connection, as the end station must first receive the request and acknowledge the request before a reserved connection with the end station is established (see, e.g., Golden, column 8, lines 29-34; column 1, lines 58-67). Thus, because requests for reserved connections do not belong to a reserved connection, requests for reserved connections are not

forwarded to high priority queues with reserved connection packets. Furthermore, where Golden does explicitly discuss requests for reserved connections, Golden simply states that they are forwarded to the intended receiver and makes no mention whatsoever of using high priority queues employed for reserved connection packets (see, e.g., Golden, column 9, lines 26-29). Accordingly, Golden does not teach or render obvious output queues that are associated only with reserved connection packets and reserved connection requests, as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, Haddock and Metin fail to cure the deficiencies of Golden. As noted by the Examiner, Haddock does not even disclose the use of requests for reserved connections. In addition, Metin fails to disclose or render obvious an output queue that is associated only with one reserved connection path at a given time. Thus, Metin also fails to disclose or render obvious forwarding requests for reserved connections to such output queues.

Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above. Furthermore, claims 9 and 13 are also believed to be patentable, as claims 9 and 13 include similar, relevant features discussed above with regard to claim 1. Additionally, claims 2-8, 10-12 and 14-17 are also believed to be patentable over the cited references due at least to their dependencies from claims 1, 9 and 13, respectively. As such, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account #07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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